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EXAMINER

LE, DUY K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2685

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/707,963

Applicant(s)

TEZUKA, ASUMARU

Examiner

Duy K Le

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase at the end of the claim "refers to said data storage to determine whether each of said plurality of multifunction telephones" is incomplete. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 4-9, 12-14, 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,978,667).

As to claim 1, Figure 1 in Suzuki shows a multifunction telephone switching system 100 comprising:

a portable radiophone (170-1 to 170-n);

a plurality of multifunction telephones (120-1 to 120-n), a specific one of which is connected to said portable radiophone ("according to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon" (Col. 4, lines 16-20). "As illustrated as an example in FIG. 22, the wired telephone

Art Unit: 2685

terminal 320 connected with the portable station position detector 380 is previously corresponded to the specific portable station in the portable station 370” (Col. 29-32)); and

a control unit 110 connected to said plurality of multifunction telephones to manage said plurality of multifunction telephones,

wherein said specific multifunction telephone notifies a call arrival at said portable radiophone to said control unit (“according to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon” (Col. 4, lines 16-20). As interpreted by examiner, a referred portable station can be a multifunction telephone coupled to a portable station. “The respective portable stations 170 existed in the calling area receive the call signal and the identification information identifying the portable stations, the information such as extension number of the incoming other party” (Col. 10, lines 31-34). “Reception information indicating reception of the incoming call together with the calling sound is radio transmitted. This reception information is received by the cell station 150-1 and sent to the controller 114 through the interface circuit 116-1. The controller 114 receives the reception signal through the interface circuit 116-1 and recognizes that the calling signal is received by the portable station 170-1 of the incoming party” (Col. 10, lines 38-46)),

said control unit permits response to an arrived call for said specific multifunction telephone based on an operation state of said specific multifunction telephone (“when the portable station 170-1 operates off-hook button of an operation unit of the portable station 170-1 by its user, the portable station 170-1 radio transmits an answer signal. The answer signal is

received by the cell station 150-1, and transmitted to the controller 114 through the interface circuit 116-1" (Col. 10, lines 48-53)), and

said specific multifunction telephone responds to said arrived call at said portable radiophone in response to the permission ("the controller 114 knows that the terminal responds according to the information, controls the channel switch 111, obtains the channel to the call-out side and can communicate with the call-out side" (Col. 10, lines 53-56)).

As to claim 3, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein said control unit selects another of said plurality of multifunction telephones other than said specific multifunction telephone based on the operation states of said plurality of multifunction telephones, when said multifunction telephone cannot respond said arrived call, and permits the response to said arrived call to said another multifunction telephone, and said another multifunction telephone responds to said arrived call at said portable radiophone in response to the permission ("in FIG. 14, it is illustrated that four incoming call no answers are generated at the time of disabling to communicate with the arbitrary portable station such as, for example, portable station 270-1" (Col. 19, lines 19-22). "When the incoming call no answer occurs, the case where a disconnecting process is conducted to the originating origin, the case to transferring to preset transfer destination, and the case connected to a talkie are presumed" (Col. 19, lines 27-31). "The electronic exchange device 210 executes the transfer process to the transfer destination (step E6)" (Col. 20, lines 13-15)).

As to claim 4, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 3, wherein said control unit determines that said specific multifunction telephone cannot respond said arrived call, when said operation state of said specific

Art Unit: 2685

multifunction telephone is busy (“if incoming call no answer is obtained from the portable station 270-1, the electronic exchange device 210 judges that the portable station 270-1 is disabled to communicate” (Col. 19, line 65 to Col. 20, line 2). As interpreted by examiner, the portable station 270-1 is busy).

As to claim 5, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 3, wherein said control unit determines that said specific multifunction telephone cannot respond said arrived call, when said specific multifunction telephone has no handset and a set of a speaker and a microphone (“portable station position detectors 380 (380-1 to 380-i) for detecting presence or absence of the portable station and informing the result to the electronic exchange system 310 are so connected to the wired telecommunication terminals 320 (320-1 to 320-I) of extension wired telephone terminals as to correspond by one by one” (Col. 23, lines 4-10). “When the presence information is “absent”, the substitute incoming is not necessary, and hence the controller 314 controls ordinary incoming at the portable station 370-1 (step H4)” (Col. 25, lines 10-13). As interpreted by examiner, the portable station is a handset to the wired terminal 320 (multifunction telephone). When it is absent, the wired terminal 320 (multifunction telephone) cannot respond to arrived call since the controller sends the call to the portable station).

As to claim 6, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein said control unit includes a data storage which stores operation data indicative of said operation state of each of said plurality of multifunction telephones, and refers to said data storage to determine whether each of said plurality of multifunction telephones (“the storage section 115 further holds various information generated in

the electronic exchange system 110” (Col. 8, lines 16-18). “The storage section 115 holds programs and data for variously controlling selection of the port number of the other party to be controlled to be electronic exchange system based on dial information, or based on off-hook, an on-hook and the like” (Col. 8, lines 41-45)).

As to claims 7 and 13, the Suzuki reference discloses the specific multifunction telephone and the communication control section can respond to said arrived call at said portable radiophone without waiting for the permission when the permission is previously given (“the controller 114 controls to call back through the interface circuit 116-1 connected with the cell station 150-1 for serving the calling area disposed at the portable station 170-1 at the stage to be able to communicate with the portable station 170-1 (permission given). Thus, the identification information of the incoming other party is transmitted together with the calling signal through the control channel from the cell station 150 to the portable station 170-1” (Col. 10, line 66 to Col. 11, line 6). “The controller 114 recognizes by the reception of the reception information that the calling signal is sent to the portable station 170-1. The incoming is informed to the user by the calling sound at the portable station 170-1. When the user operates the off-hook button of the operation unit of the portable station 170, the portable station 170 radio transmits the answer signal” (Col. 11, lines 20-26)).

As to claim 8, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein said specific multifunction telephone notifies a line disconnection to said control unit when communication through said portable radiophone is ended, and said control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a vacant state (“the electronic exchange device 210 executes the above-described transfer, the connecting process to

Art Unit: 2685

the talkie or the disconnecting process” (Col. 20, lines 24-26). “Thereafter, it is assumed that the portable station 270-1 becomes the state for enabling to communicate and the location registration signal is sent to the portable station 270-1” (Col. 20, lines 33-36)).

As to claim 9, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein said specific multifunction telephone communicates with any of said plurality of multifunction telephones by use of said control unit (“according to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon” (Col. 4, lines 16-20). “The portable station 170 is connected to the private branch electronic exchange system 110 through such cell station 150, and can communicate between the wired telecommunication terminal 120 and other portable station 170” (Col. 12, lines 37-41); Figure 2).

As to claim 12, Figure 22 in Suzuki shows a multifunction telephone comprising:

a handset (320-1);

a connection control section (381-1) to which a portable radiophone (370-1) is to be connected; and

a communication control section (380-1) for controlling a wired line communication and a radio channel communication through said connection control section and said portable radiophone,

wherein said communication control section detects a call arrival at said portable radiophone through said connection control section, and responds to an arrived call at said portable radiophone through said connection control section when the response to said arrived

Art Unit: 2685

call is permitted ("when incoming at the portable station 370-1 occurs, a process to be executed by the controller 314 of the private branch electronic exchange system 310 will be explained with reference to FIG.25" (Col. 24, lines 54-57). "The controller 314 so controls as to connect the termination call to the corresponding substitute destination extension number "5000" of the substitute incoming set table (step H3). As a result, the incoming at the portable station 370-1 can be transferred to the wired telecommunication terminal 320-1 set as the substitute destination extension number, and even when the communication channel of the portable station 370-1 is busy and scarcely connected, the incoming is transferred to the substitute destination extension, and hence the incoming is facilitated to be able to talk" (Col. 24, line 66 to Col. 25, line 9)).

As to claim 14, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12, wherein said communication control section receives said call arrival at said portable radiophone, and responds to an arrived call at said portable radiophone through said connection control section when the response to said arrived call is permitted ("reception information indicating reception of the incoming call together with the calling sound is radio transmitted. This reception information is received by the cell station 150-1 and sent to the controller 114 through the interface circuit 116-1. The controller 114 receives the reception signal through the interface circuit 116-1 and recognizes that the calling signal is received by the portable station 170-1 of the incoming party" (Col. 10, lines 38-46). "When the portable station 170-1 operates off-hook button of an operation unit of the portable station 170-1 by its user, the portable station 170-1 radio transmits an answer signal. The answer signal is received by the cell station 150-1, and transmitted to the controller 114 through the interface circuit 116-1" (Col. 10, lines 48-53). "The controller 114 knows that the terminal responds according to the information, controls the

channel switch 111, obtains the channel to the call-out side and can communicate with the call-out side” (Col. 10, lines 53-56)).

As to claim 16, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12, wherein said communication control section outputs a line disconnection when communication through said connection control section and said portable radiophone is ended (“the electronic exchange device 210 processes to disconnect the communication with the originating origin (step E7)” (Col. 20, lines 21-23). “The electronic exchange device 210 executes the above-described transfer, the connecting process to the talkie or the disconnecting process” (Col. 20, lines 24-26)).

As to claim 18, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12, wherein said communication control section originates a dial data including a dial number of a destination radiophone through said connection control section, such that said portable radiophone originates a call to said destination radiophone based on said dial data (“the wired telecommunication terminal 120-1 (extension number: “1000”) of the originating terminal is first off-hooked, and the extension number “2000” of the incoming terminal is dialed. The private branch electronic exchange system 110 receives an outgoing signal message from the originating terminal, and sends an incoming signal message through all the cell stations 150 for constituting the calling area illustrated in FIG. 3” (Col. 13, lines 28-35). “According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon” (Col. 4, lines 16-20). As interpreted by examiner, the wired

terminal 120-1 can be a multifunction telephone coupled to a portable radiophone that originates a call to another radiophone).

As to claim 19, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12, wherein said communication control section receives a dial data including a dial number of a destination radiophone and sends said dial data through said connection control section, such that said portable radiophone originates a call to said destination radiophone based on said dial data ("the wired telecommunication terminal 120-1 (extension number: "1000") of the originating terminal is first off-hooked, and the extension number "2000" of the incoming terminal is dialed. The private branch electronic exchange system 110 receives an outgoing signal message from the originating terminal, and sends an incoming signal message through all the cell stations 150 for constituting the calling area illustrated in FIG. 3" (Col. 13, lines 28-35). "According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon" (Col. 4, lines 16-20). As interpreted by examiner, the wired terminal 120-1 can be a multifunction telephone coupled to a portable radiophone that originates a call to another radiophone).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 10, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,978,667 to Suzuki et al. in view of the applicant prior art (admission).

As to claim 2, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1. However, it does not disclose the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state, after has permitted the response. Admission teaches the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state, after has permitted the response (“when the multifunctional telephone control section 113 detects the off-hook state of the multifunction telephone 105, the multifunction telephone control section 113 notifies the detection result to the line switching control section 112. The line switching control section 112 carries out a channel establishing operation for the multifunction telephone 105. The line switching control section 112 records the off-hook (busy) state of the multifunction telephone 105 on the data storage section 114” (page 7, lines 9-18)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the switching system of Suzuki wherein the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state, after has permitted the response, as taught by Admission, in order to properly carry out a call arriving process based on the communication state of the multifunction telephone.

As to claim 10, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein said specific multifunction telephone originates a dial data including a dial number of a destination radiophone, and notifies the origination of the dial data to said control unit, and said portable radiophone originates a call to said destination radiophone based on said dial data (“the wired telecommunication terminal 120-1 (extension number:

Art Unit: 2685

“1000”) of the originating terminal is first off-hooked, and the extension number “2000” of the incoming terminal is dialed. The private branch electronic exchange system 110 receives an outgoing signal message from the originating terminal, and sends an incoming signal message through all the cell stations 150 for constituting the calling area illustrated in FIG. 3” (Col. 13, lines 28-35). “According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon” (Col. 4, lines 16-20). As interpreted by examiner, the wired terminal 120-1 can be a multifunction telephone coupled to a portable radiophone that originates a call to another radiophone). However, the Suzuki reference does not disclose control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state,

Admission teaches the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state (“when the multifunctional telephone control section 113 detects the off-hook state of the multifunction telephone 105, the multifunction telephone control section 113 notifies the detection result to the line switching control section 112. The line switching control section 112 carries out a channel establishing operation for the multifunction telephone 105. The line switching control section 112 records the off-hook (busy) state of the multifunction telephone 105 on the data storage section 114” (page 7, lines 9-18)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the switching system of Suzuki wherein the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state, as taught by Admission, in order to properly

carry out a call arriving process based on the communication state of the multifunction telephone.

As to claim 15, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12. However, it does not disclose the communication control section outputs an operation state of said multifunction telephone when the operation state is changed. Admission teaches the communication control section outputs an operation state of said multifunction telephone when the operation state is changed (“when the multifunction telephone control section 113 detects the off-hook state of the multifunction telephone 105, the multifunction telephone control section 113 notifies the detection result to the line switching control section 112” (page 7, lines 9-13). “The line switching control section 112 records the off-hook state of the multifunction telephone 105 on the data storage section 114” (page 7, lines 15-18)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the multifunction telephone of Suzuki wherein the communication control section outputs an operation state of said multifunction telephone when the operation state is changed, as taught by Admission, in order to properly carry out a call arriving process based on the communication state of the multifunction telephone.

As to claim 17, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone according to claim 12. However, it does not expressly disclose the communication control section carries out an extension line communication with another multifunction telephone. Admission discloses “the plurality of the multifunction telephones (not shown) may be connected with the multifunction telephone control section 113. The multifunction telephone 105 carries out extension line communication with another multifunction telephone” (page 5, lines 9-14)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the multifunction telephone of Suzuki wherein the communication control section carries out an extension line communication with another multifunction telephone, as taught by Admission, in order to call another telephone without having to go through a public line network.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,978,667 to Suzuki et al. in view of the applicant prior art (admission) and further in view of Chavez, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 6,125,285).

As to claim 11, the Suzuki reference discloses the multifunction telephone switching system according to claim 1, wherein one of said plurality of multifunction telephone sends a dial data including a dial number of a destination radiophone to control unit, and said portable radiophone originates a call to said destination radiophone based on said dial data ("the wired telecommunication terminal 120-1 (extension number: "1000") of the originating terminal is first off-hooked, and the extension number "2000" of the incoming terminal is dialed. The private branch electronic exchange system 110 receives an outgoing signal message from the originating terminal, and sends an incoming signal message through all the cell stations 150 for constituting the calling area illustrated in FIG. 3" (Col. 13, lines 28-35). "According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided an exchange system comprising a plurality of portable stations, a plurality of wired terminals, each of the wired terminals having a unit adapted to carry one of the portable station thereon" (Col. 4, lines 16-20). As interpreted by examiner, the wired terminal 120-1 can be a multifunction telephone coupled to a portable radiophone that originates a call to another radiophone). However, the Suzuki reference does not disclose the control unit sets said

one multifunction telephone to a busy state, and sends the dial data to said portable radiophone via said specific multifunction telephone.

Admission teaches the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state ("when the multifunctional telephone control section 113 detects the off-hook state of the multifunction telephone 105, the multifunction telephone control section 113 notifies the detection result to the line switching control section 112. The line switching control section 112 carries out a channel establishing operation for the multifunction telephone 105. The line switching control section 112 records the off-hook (busy) state of the multifunction telephone 105 on the data storage section 114" (page 7, lines 9-18)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the multifunction telephone of Suzuki wherein the control unit sets said specific multifunction telephone to a busy state, as taught by Admission, in order to properly carry out a call arriving process based on the communication state of the multifunction telephone.

The Chavez, Jr. reference teaches the control unit sends the dial data to the portable radiophone via said specific multifunction telephone ("control unit 301 is responsive to messages from processor 204 defining button actuations on auxiliary desktop unit 102 to encode this information into INFO elements of PHS messages and to transmit those messages to wireless telecommunication switching system 301" (Col. 5, lines 24-28)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the multifunction telephone of Suzuki-Admission wherein the control unit sets sends the dial data to the portable radiophone via said specific multifunction

telephone, as taught by Chavez, Jr., in order to originate a call from a portable radiophone to another radiophone.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- a. Okada (U.S. Patent 6,026,295) discloses mobile communication system and base station.
 - b. Van Der Salm (U.S. Patent 6,343,220) discloses multimode telecommunication terminal device.
 - c. Uriya (U.S. Patent 6,574,489) discloses incoming call notification method and device for a multimode radio device.
 - d. Hiroki (U.S. Patent 6,314,298) discloses wireless communications system having a communications apparatus accommodating communication lines and a wireless communications apparatus wirelessly connected to said apparatus, and method of controlling said system.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy K Le whose telephone number is 703-305-5660. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward F Urban can be reached on 703-305-4385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

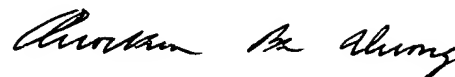
Application/Control Number: 09/707,963

Page 17

Art Unit: 2685

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Duy Le
December 26, 2003



**QUOCHIEN B. VUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**